



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Western District of New York

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# PRESS RELEASE

**RE: UNITED STATES v. JAMES CHARLES KOPP  
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK v.  
JAMES CHARLES KOPP**

United States Attorney Denise E. O'Donnell and Acting Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee of the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice announced today that a federal arrest warrant has been obtained for James Charles Kopp, authorizing his arrest on the charge of using deadly force to prevent Dr. Barnett Slepian from providing reproductive health service, in violation of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE Act), Title 18, United States Code, Section 248, carrying a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

Erie County District Attorney Frank J. Clark III also announced today that an arrest warrant has been obtained; for James Charles Kopp, charging him with intentional murder in the second degree for the shooting death of Dr. Slepian, in violation of Section 125-25 of the New York Penal Code, carrying a maximum penalty of 25 years to life imprisonment.

It should be noted that the fact that a defedant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and deffendant is presumed innocent until and unless provenguiltly *Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B) (6)*).

On October 23, 1998, at approximately 10:00 p.m., Dr. Barnett Slepian was killed as he stood in the kitchen of his E. Amherst, New York, home. He was shot by a single gunshot which entered his home through a rear window. The shot was fired from a wooded area behind the home. Dr. Slepian was an obstetrician-gynecologist who was one of the physicians performing abortions at the Buffalo GYN Women Services Clinic. Dr. Slepian also maintained an obstetrics and gynecology practice at his office in Amherst, New York.

The charges announced today are a result of the joint investigative efforts of the Amherst, New York, Police Department

under the direction of Chief Frank W. Olesko, the New York State Police, under the direction of Major Michael F. McManus and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Bernard A. Tolbert, working with the Erie County, New York, District Attorney's Office, the United States Attorney's Office and the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. Assistance was provided to the investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Steve Pirotte, and Jeffrey Stirling, Resident Agent in Charge of the Buffalo Field Office.

Mr. Kopp is a fugitive. He has not been seen or heard from since November 3, 1998, the day prior to the announcement that he was being sought as a material witness. With the filing of the federal complaint, the material witness warrant has been withdrawn.

James Charles Kopp is identified as a white, male, 5'11", 155 to 170 pounds, blue eyes, and red/brown hair. He wears eyeglasses. His date of birth is 8/2/54 and place of birth is California. His social security number is 558-86-1346, although he has used other social security numbers. Kopp has used numerous aliases including Clyde Swenson, Jim Cobb, and Jack Crotty. Several photographs of Kopp are available from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Kopp

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was known to live and work in the Jersey City, New Jersey, and metropolitan New York City area. He has skills in carpentry, light construction, telephone installation, masonry, welding, locksmith and typing. He has no permanent address and has traveled throughout the United States and other countries.

The state and federal grand juries remain active. The federal investigation is continuing regarding the shooting of a Rochester doctor residing in Perinton, New York, on October 28, 1997. Any information regarding the sighting of James Charles Kopp in Buffalo, Amherst or Rochester, New York, areas or any sightings of his cars at anytime in 1997 or 1998 should be reported to law enforcement. Kopp owned a 1987 Chevrolet Cavalier, black in color registered in the State of Vermont with license plate number BPE216. The car was recovered in a Newark, New Jersey, airport parking lot. Kopp also owned a green 1977 Dodge Aspen bearing Vermont license plate BFN595. The green Aspen has not been recovered and its location is of interest to the investigators. Anyone with information should contact the Buffalo Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at 716-856-7800.